(iii) In the case of Kerala the average monthly offtake of APL wheat was 10,912, 14,376 and 21,819 tonnes for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The average monthly offtake for the last three years, therefore, comes to 15,702 tonnes. As per clause (i) above, a 25% cut on rice consuming States was imposed. The APL wheat for Kerala has, therefore, been calculated at 11,777 tonnes per months. As far as BPL wheat allocation is concerned, the average monthly offtake works out to 2,520, 10,205 and 9,283 tonnes for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The average monthly offtake for the last three years comes to 7,336 tonnes as against the allocation of 8,865 tonnes during May, 2006. As per clause (ii) above, out of these two figures, the lower quantity of 7,776 tonnes per month has been allocated as BPL wheat for Kerala.

Government has not taken any decision to reduce the allocation of foodgrains under TPDS. The only decision taken in the light of dwindling wheat stocks is to change the ratio of rice and wheat while keeping the overall allocation of foodgrains under TPDS as 35 kgs per family per month. This decision will not have any impact on the food security under TPDS.

(c) to (e) Since the decision to streamline was based on average offtake by States, no State Government including Kerala was consulted by Central Government before taking such a decision with effect from June, 2006. As already mentioned, the overall allocation of foodgrains under TPDS has not been reduced and has been maintained at the same level *viz.* 35 kgs. per family per month for each category.

Shortage of ration wheat

†*95. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any information from different States about the shortage of wheat for rationing;

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names of the States from where information has been received about the shortage of wheat or other cereals, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan to meet the demand of wheat for rationing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Government have received requests from 20 States/UTs about shortage of wheat for TPDS and to increase the allocation of wheat under TPDS/to restore the allocation of wheat to prerevised allocation as it was in April and May, 2006. The names of the 20 States/UTs are given in enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Steps taken by Government to manage the dwindling stocks of wheat in the Central Pool are as follows:—

(i) Streamlining allocation under TPDS:— The allocation of wheat for Above Poverty Line (APL) category has been rationalized to each State's average Offtake for the last 3 years or the last year's Offtake, whichever was lower. A 25% cut on this has been imposed in respect of rice consuming States and Delhi for APL category. However, there has been no change in the APL entitlements and the requests of States, if any, for increasing rice/coarse grains allocation in lieu of wheat are being considered.

The allocation of wheat for BPL/AAY category has been rationalized to each State's average offtake for the last 3 years or the existing allocation, whichever was lower. However, the overall allocation of foodgrains has remained unchanged for BPL/AAY households as the reduced wheat allocation has been made up by corresponding increase in rice allocation.

The Government has not taken any decision to reduce the allocation under TPDS. The only decision taken in the light of dwindling wheat stocks is to change the ratio of rice and wheat while keeping the overall allocation of foodgrains under TPDS as 35 kgs per family per month. This decision will not have any impact on the food security under TPDS.

(ii) In order to cater to the local tastes as well as to help the farmers in production of foodgrains other than wheat and rice, a higher allocation of coarse-grains (*e.g.* Jowar, bajra, maize/ragi, etc.) at highly subsidized rate is being made to various State Government who have demanded for the same.

(iii) A decision has been taken that there would be no sale of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS-D) during the year 2006-07.

(iv) A decision has been taken to import 35 lakh MTs of wheat.

Statement

Names of the State Governments/UTs from where the requests have been received to restore/increase the allocation of wheat as it was in April and May, 06, *i.e.* before revision *w.e.f.* June, 2006 to March, 2007.

1. Assam
2. Bihar
3. Goa
4. Gujarat
5. Himachal Pradesh
6. Karnataka
7. Kerala
8. Madhya Pradesh
9. Meghalaya
10. Mizoram
11. Nagaland
12. Punjab
13. Rajasthan
14. Tamil Nadu
15. Tripura
16. Uttaranchal

17. Uttar Pradesh
18. Andaman & Nicobar Island
19. Chandigarh
20. Dadra & Nagar Haveli

NRHM in Uttar Pradesh

*96. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under National Rural Health Mission, 65,000 ASHAs were to be selected in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, whether this target has been achieved and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the status of implementation of NRHM in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) One of the key strategies under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is the provision of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) in every village of the ten States with weak infrastructure/demographic indicators. These States are Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. The number of ASHAs to be selected in these States is 2,50,000. Out of this, 1,00,000 were to be selected in 2005-06. Of this, approximately 27,000 were to be selected in Uttar Pradesh. Against this, the State has reported the selection of 19,887 ASHAs during the period. Though there is a shortfall in the number of ASHAs selected in Uttar Pradesh, overall the target of one lakh ASHAs have been exceeded in ten States.

Panchayat elections in Uttar Pradesh delayed the process of selection. Anyway, the process is an ongoing one and there should not be any difficulty in positioning the expected number of ASHAs in the State. In fact, the number of ASHAs already selected upto 19th July, 2006, in the State is 44,799.